

WEATHER.

Cloudy and warmer tonight and tomorrow; probably rain; moderate, possibly fresh, northeast winds. Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m.: Highest, 51, at 4 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 37, at 6 a.m. today. Full report on page 18.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 18.

No. 29,475.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1916.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

ONE CENT.

MR. LANSING IS OUT FOR HALF HOLIDAY

Recommends Short Saturday All Year in Report Sent to President.

PRAISES HIS SUBORDINATES

Secretary Lansing has adopted the recommendation of Chief Clerk Davis of the Department of State in favor of a half-day Saturday holiday all the year round, and has sent a report to that effect to the President at Shadow Lawn.

The Secretary's letter was not made public, but it is understood that he has recommended the Saturday half holiday mainly on the ground that the clerks and messengers in the State Department were faithful and efficient and always met the frequent calls for extra work after hours without complaint, and needed a short holiday once a week, for recreation and health.

Secretaries Baker and Daniels also out of the city taking part in the political campaign and have not yet replied to the President's request for their views on the advisability of applying the legal half holiday to the District of Columbia and Navy Departments throughout the year.

But Two Dissenting Views.

In advance of the transmission yesterday of Secretary McAdoo's letter to the White House favoring the year-round Saturday half holiday for federal employees, every bureau and division chief of the Treasury Department, save two, had gone on record as favoring the half holiday extension. The exceptions are the controller of the currency, John Skilton Williams, and the director of the mint, F. H. von Engel-

Controller Williams does not favor the idea, in view of the fact that he has asked for additional clerks in his estimates for this year, and the working time of his office would be reduced 7 per cent by the operation of a year-round Saturday half holiday.

"I do not see how I could consistently recommend the granting of the Saturday half holiday," he says. "It seems to me that seven hours a day, with a half holiday on Saturday for three months in the summer, is not an unreasonable working schedule, especially in view of the numerous other holidays allowed during the year."

The director of the mint is opposed to an extension of the Saturday half holiday unless those who benefit thereby compensate the government by making up the time during the other days of the week. He is conscientiously opposed to reducing the hours of labor of government clerks, he cites the long hours of labor that were exacted of him in the past to establish the fact that government clerks are most leniently treated in this respect.

Favored by Twenty-Seven.

There are twenty-nine bureaus and divisions of the Treasury Department. The other twenty-seven chiefs, or those acting for them in their absence, endorse the proposition, some with great enthusiasm. Most of them record that no further working hours overtime would be required by the government, and a great deal better work in exchange for the privilege.

Of the thirty-nine intimates that conditions may arise where overtime will be necessary. Others speak of the possibility of this condition, but state that it might occur at an emergency, and that the all-year round Saturday half holiday is not in vogue.

The significant inroads made in the public health service. He favors the extension of the half holiday for scientific and professional encouragement.

Wants Engraving Bureau Included.

Director Joseph E. Ralph of the bureau of engraving and printing expresses his hope that those employed under him will be given the benefit of the half holiday, if granted generally, this in spite of economic difficulties, the prospect of reduced production or increased cost of the work. He says the bureau is a manufacturing plant on a different pay basis than are other government bureaus.

"The employees of this bureau, in my opinion," he comments, "are required to perform more arduous duties than in any of the clerical departments, and if the other branches of the government are given the benefit of the half holiday, it would certainly be fair to have this bureau included within the order."

The matter was most particularly discussed by the employees of the bureau, and it does the clerical branches of the service, for the reason that nearly all the men make the Saturday half holiday a matter of life and death, as many female employees are members of labor organizations which have particularly been appealing for the half holiday.

Director Ralph explains that the production of the half holiday will be to an amount of 13,265,000 sheets. To provide for this he would regard it as a matter of course to extend the appropriation of \$245,000 to employ additional help or to extend the work hours of the other week days from 4 to 4:30 o'clock.

Commissioner Osborn's View.

"It is further believed that additional clerks will not be necessary on account of the proposed change," adds Commissioner W. H. Osborn of the bureau of internal revenue, in his endorsement, for the reason that the additional rest granted and better spirit inspired will tend to increase the efficiency of the present organization."

The attitude of the bureau and division chiefs was obtained at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury in order to enable him intelligently to form an opinion. Joseph W. Wilmeth, chief clerk, assembled the data and presented it in form. Secretary McAdoo's instructions were to obtain an overwhelming sentiment in favor of Saturday half holidays all year round.

SEES NO ADVANTAGE IN IT.

P. J. Ryan Opposes Director Ralph's Half-Holiday Proposition.

There would be no advantage in giving employees of the bureau of engraving and printing a Saturday half holiday all the year round if the hours of work were extended from 4 o'clock to 4:30, as suggested by Director Ralph, says P. J. Ryan, editor of the Plate Printer.

Mr. Ryan declares that there are now on the civil service register names of numerous eligible plate printers and other employees who could be taken on by the bureau on the Saturday half holiday were granted, and thus obviate the necessity of the present employees working a half hour more each day.

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